

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Daniel Zillmann, 612.342.1612 or dzillmann@mnopera.org

Madame Butterfly, Puccini's beloved classic, opens April 14

Minnesota Opera's 2011–2012 season closes with
Kelly Kaduce and Yunah Lee alternating as the tragic heroine Butterfly
in this remount of Colin Graham's celebrated production

- What:** Giacomo Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*
Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.
- Where:** Ordway, 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102
- When:** Saturday, April 14, 7:30pm Sunday, April 15, 2pm
Tuesday, April 17, 7:30pm Wednesday, April 18, 7:30pm
Thursday, April 19, 7:30pm Friday, April 20, 7:30pm
Saturday, April 21, 7:30pm Sunday, April 22, 2pm
- Tickets:** \$20 – \$200. Call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612.333.6669,
Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm, or purchase online at mnopera.org.
- Media:** An online press kit is available now at mnopera.org/butterflykit, which includes full
bios, links to view design renderings, production photos and other useful resources.
Contact Communications Manager, Daniel Zillmann, to take advantage of the following
interview, photo and video opportunities at dress rehearsals at Ordway: **Wednesday,
April 11, 7pm** (Kaduce cast), **Thursday, April 12, 7:30pm** (Kaduce cast) and **Friday,
April 13, 11am** (Lee cast).
- Bloggers:** Minnesota Opera hosts its final **Blogger Preview Night** of the season, including a
reception with Minnesota Opera's new **Music Director Michael Christie** and exclusive
access to the dress rehearsal on **Thursday, April 12, 6pm**. Email Daniel to R.S.V.P.

Minneapolis—Minnesota Opera is pleased to announce the remounting of Colin Graham's 2004 produc-
tion of *Madame Butterfly*. Kelly Kaduce and Yunah Lee alternate as the tragic heroine in this celebrated
staging, which evokes the beauty and romance of Puccini's gorgeous, unforgettable classic. Seduced by
the handsome American naval officer Pinkerton, a young geisha falls deeply in love, but his betrayal leads
to one of opera's most heartrending conclusions.

continued ...

Minnesota-born **KELLY KADUCE** was praised as the tragic heroine Cio-Cio-San by *The Huffington Post* in the 2010 “performance to treasure” at Santa Fe Opera. The versatile soprano previously sang the title roles in Minnesota Opera’s *Madame Butterfly* under Colin Graham’s direction in 2004 and *Rusalka* in 2009. Ms. Kaduce alternates with another celebrated Butterfly, soprano **YUNAH LEE** (*Turandot*), whose opening night of this revival will herald her 108th performance of the title role. Making their company debuts, tenors **ARTURO CHACÓN-CRUZ** and **BRIAN JAGDE** alternate in the role of Pinkerton. The American Consul Sharpless is sung by baritones **LEVI HERNANDEZ** (debut) and **ANDREW WILKOWSKE** (*Silent Night*). Mezzo-soprano **MIKA SHIGEMATSU** (*The Barber of Seville*) alternates the role of Suzuki with Minnesota Opera Resident Artist **VICTORIA VARGAS** (*Lucia di Lammermoor*). In both casts, **ANGELA MORTELLARO** is Kate Pinkerton, **JOHN ROBERT LINDSEY** is the marriage broker Goro, **GABRIEL PREISSER** is Butterfly’s Japanese suitor Yamadori and the Imperial Commissioner, **JOSEPH BEUTEL** is the Bonze and **A. J. GLUECKERT** is the Official Registrar. This nationally acclaimed production, called “magnificent” by *Star Tribune* and “a rare, beautiful ‘Butterfly’” by *Pioneer Press*, is remounted by director **E. REED FISHER** and features sets by **NEIL PATEL** (*Wuthering Heights*) and immaculately detailed costumes by **DAVID C. WOOLARD**. Minnesota Opera’s new Music Director **MICHAEL CHRISTIE** conducts the Minnesota Opera Orchestra (with Minnesota Opera Resident Artist **CLINTON SMITH** conducting on April 20 and 22).

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor Michael Christie (conducts April 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21)
Clinton Smith+ (conducts April 20, 22)
Stage Director E. Reed Fisher
Set Designer Neil Patel
Costume Designer David C. Woolard
Original Lighting Designer Mark McCullough
Lighting Designer Robert Denton

THE CAST

Cio-Cio-San (*Madame Butterfly*) Kelly Kaduce (performs April 14, 17, 19, 21)
Yunah Lee (performs April 15, 18, 20, 22)
Lieutenant B. F. Pinkerton Arturo Chacón-Cruz* (performs April 14, 17, 19, 21)
Brian Jagde* (performs April 15, 18, 20, 22)
Suzuki, *Butterfly’s maid* Mika Shigematsu (performs April 14, 17, 19, 21)
Victoria Vargas+ (performs April 15, 18, 20, 22)
Sharpless, *U.S. Consul at Nagasaki* Levi Hernandez* (performs April 14, 17, 19, 21)
Andrew Wilkowske (performs April 15, 18, 20, 22)
Goro, *a marriage broker* John Robert Lindsey+
The Bonze, *Butterfly’s uncle* Joseph Beutel+
Kate Pinkerton Angela Mortellaro+
Imperial Commissioner; Prince Yamadori Gabriel Preisser+
Official Registrar A. J. Glueckert+
*Minnesota Opera Debut, +Minnesota Opera Resident Artist

To learn more about *Madame Butterfly* ...

Please visit mnopera.org/season. There you will find casting updates, artist biographies, synopses, background notes, audio and video clips, suggestions for further reading and listening, ticketing services and other company information.

The 2011–2012 Minnesota Opera season is sponsored by The Private Client Reserve at U.S. Bank.

Madame Butterfly is sponsored by Abbot Downing (formerly Lowry Hill).

The Minnesota Opera’s mission is to produce opera and opera education programs at the highest artistic level that inspire and entertain our audiences and enrich the cultural life of our community.